

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 4, 2001 has been carefully reviewed. Claims 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, 14, and 21 have been amended. Claims 4-10, 13, 15-20, and 22-39 are also pending. Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the above amendments and the remarks below is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiner Choi for the courtesies extended to his representative, Karen G. Horowitz (Reg. No. 35,199), during the interview granted on February 28, 2002. The comments made during the interview in support of allowance are incorporated herein.

The Examiner rejected the revised form PTO-1449 filed on October 6, 2000, stating that Applicant did not properly identify the listed documents as "prior art." Attached herewith is a copy of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 with portions highlighted indicating that there is no requirement to identify the documents listed in the Information Disclosure Statement as "prior art." Furthermore, the Examiner agreed, during the interview, that there appears to be no such requirement and that the Information Disclosure Statement will be considered as filed on October 6, 2000.

In the Office Action, the Examiner disagreed with Applicant's indication that claims 25-27, 29-31, and 33-37 read on Species A, the elected group. However, it is respectfully submitted that all of these claims read upon the elected species. The specification clearly supports that Species A is covered by claims 25-27, 29-31, and 33-37, as is evidenced, for example, on page 4, lines 31-32, of the specification. Also, as agreed during the interview, all these claims contain limitations which render the other independent claims which were examined allowable.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) for failing to show the reference sign '45' mentioned in the description. In response, addition of reference sign '45' is proposed, as shown in red ink on the attached copy for the Examiner's consideration. Also attached is a new formal drawing sheet reflecting the amendment to Fig.

3. The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the proposed drawing changes and to enter the substitute formal drawing of Fig. 3.

The Examiner has indicated an informality in the specification. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that the numeral "66d" should be replaced with the numeral --66c--. Withdrawal of the objection in view of the amendment to the specification is respectfully requested. In addition, the specification has been further amended to clarify the orientation of the features of the shaving head and to correct typographical errors.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

Claims 4-8 and 15-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

More particularly, the Examiner stated that claim 4 is not clear as to what structure is inferred by "the connector assembly includes at least one insertion element and at least one cutout." Further the Examiner stated that it appears that the cutout is located on a shaving head rather than the connector assembly. In view of the specification, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is completely clear under 35 U.S.C. § 112. For example, the exemplary embodiment described at page 7, lines 21-25, and page 4, lines 12-15, of the specification explain that cutouts 62 are defined by member 60 of connection members 52a and 52b. Connection members 52a and 52b may be configured as a handle-engaging element (one of the exemplary components of a connection assembly) with which the handle, or a portion thereof, is engaged. Thus, it is understandable that the connector assembly can include an element, such as a cutout, formed on the shaving head.

With respect to claims 11-13, the Examiner stated that it was not clear what structure is inferred. Claims 11-13 further define the movements of the shaving head with respect to the shaving handle. There is no requirement in 35 U.S.C. § 112 that these claims further define a structure. It is respectfully submitted that these claims are clear under the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Exemplary support of this follows can be found in the specification at page 11, lines 11-19. When equal forces are applied to sides I and II of head 22, head 22 is pushed towards handle 24 and leaf-spring arms 82a and 82b both are

compressed equally so that transverse axis T of head 22 remains perpendicular to longitudinal axes L and L_N even when out of the rest position, resulting in a cushioning motion.

Additionally, sides I and II of head 22 may move along directions B independent of each other to effect a rolling motion of head 22. Thus, the relationship between transverse axis T and longitudinal axis L_N of neck piece 34 changes from perpendicular to oblique in a rolling movement of head 22 about the axis L_H.

In claim 15, the Examiner stated that it is not clear what structure is inferred by "said connector assembly includes. . . and a cutout for receiving. . ." The Examiner further stated that it appears that the cutout is located on a shaving head rather than the connector assembly. In view of the specification, it is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is clear under 35 U.S.C. § 112. For example, page 6, lines 2-4 and 20-22, page 7, lines 21-25, and page 8, lines 17-30, of the specification describe an embodiment of a connection assembly including connection members 52a and 52b. Each of the connection members 52a and 52b may be configured as a handle-engaging element on the head 22 and includes a member 60 that defines cutout 62. These cutouts 62 thus are understandable as part of the connector assembly, and are configured to permit coupling of the shaving head 22 to handle 24. Of course, other arrangements of a connector assembly are possible, for example, the shaving head may include elements shaped for insertion into cutouts on the handle.

Finally, with respect to claim 15, the Examiner indicated that "said connector assembly" lacks antecedent basis. Claim 14 has been amended to address the lack of antecedent basis in claim 15. Applicant asserts that this rejection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully requested that the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection for claims 4-8 and 15-18 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9, 11-20, 22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,122,826 to Coffin et al. ("Coffin"). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 14 (as amended), 25, 33, and 38 all recite that the shaving head can move “toward and away from said handle.” As discussed in the specification on page 11, lines 8-9, in an exemplary embodiment, shaving head 22 is able to move in directions toward and away from handle 24 as illustrated by arrows B. Coffin, on the other hand, does not contain any teaching regarding the cartridge being able to move in a direction toward and away from the razor handle. As discussed during the interview, Coffin only allows for a cartridge that pivots in a single direction on a disposable razor, and the cartridge cannot move toward and away from the handle. Therefore, Coffin does not disclose all of the elements of the present invention, and this rejection should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and allowance of independent claims 1, 14, 25, 33, and 38 and all claims depending therefrom are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Coffin. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons that follow.

Claim 21 ultimately depends from claim 14 and, thus, also requires that the shaving head can move toward and away from the handle. As stated above, Coffin fails to teach an adaptor that allows movement of a cartridge in a direction toward and away from a razor handle. Thus claim 21 is also patentable over Coffin. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 21 and all claims depending therefrom are respectfully requested.

In view of the forgoing, Applicant respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103 rejections for claims 1-9, 11-22, and 24 be withdrawn.

Claims withdrawn from Consideration

Claims 10, 23, and 25-37 were withdrawn from consideration. Because all claims drawn to non-elected species depend from allowable independent claims, these claims should also be allowable. Allowance of claims 10, 23, and 25-37 is respectfully requested.

Claims 38 and 39

In response to the restriction requirement of the Office Action mailed on August 28, 2001, Applicant had elected Group I, claims 1-37, for further prosecution in the present

application. However, Applicant now respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 38 and 39 in the present application since the same allowable limitation of claims 1-37 is present in claims 38 and 39 and no new searching with respect to claims 38 and 39 is required.

It is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should the Examiner disagree, then a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the allowance of this application.

No fee is believe due for this submission. Should any fees be required, please charge such fees to Pennie & Edmonds LLP's deposit account no. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 2, 2002

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Enclosures.

APPENDIX A: MARKED-UP VERSION

Specification

Page 6, Paragraph 5, beginning at Line 29 through Page 7, Line 2.

Referring to Figs. 3 and 4, the peripheral lip 46 is formed about the periphery of base 44 and includes [front] back segment 46a, [back] front segment 46b, and side segments 46c and 46d. The inner surface of [front] back segment 46a includes a plurality of inwardly extending claws or projections 56. As best seen in Fig. 4, each of the claws 56 preferably has a triangular cross-sectional shape. Claws 56 may be provided to engage an adapter unit such as disclosed in PCT Application No. PCT/US98/19997, filed September 24, 1998, with the inventor Gratsias named, which PCT application is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Page 7, Paragraph 2, beginning at Line 9 through Line 12.

A pair of lower support structures 50a and 50b and a pair of medial connection members 52a and 52b extend from base 44 on either side of projection 48 with lower support structures 50a and 50b adjacent [back] front segment 46b. Supports 54a and 54b extend from base 44 adjacent to side segments 46c and 46d, respectively.

Page 7, Paragraph 5, beginning at Line 27 through Line 34.

Referring to Figs. 3, 4, and 5, base 44 further defines three sets of slots and/or holes. The sets of slots are best seen in Fig. 5, showing the [top] bottom face of base 44 [(opposite the bottom face shown in Fig. 3)]. Although only the slots in the sets on one side of axis L_H will be discussed, such descriptions are applicable to the slots on the opposite side of axis L_H . The first set of slots 64 is adjacent [front] back segment 46a. Each slot 64 is transversely spaced from the adjacent slot so that each slot is aligned with one claw 56. Each of the slots 64 on the outer ends of the set can extend partially into [front] back segment 46a to form cutouts (not shown) in [front] back segment 46a.

Page 8, Paragraph 2, beginning at Line 1 through Line 11.

The second set of holes 66a-d (as best seen in Figs. 5 and 8) are spaced between [front] back segment 46a and [back] front segment 46b. The second set includes circular holes 66a and 66b and elongated hole 66c therebetween. Hole 66d in the second set is adjacent hole 66a and aligned with supports 54a and 54b (as seen in Figs. 3 and 8). If supports 54a and 54b are provided, then square holes 66d are blind holes accessible only at the top face of base 44 and covered by supports 54a and 54b along the bottom face of base 44. Member 60 of connection members 52a and 52b (as seen in Fig. 3) crosses over the elongated hole 66c so that cutout 62 (as seen in Fig. 4) is in communication and aligned with elongated hole 66c. As shown in Figs. 1 and 8, blade cover 68 is mounted over base 44 (and blades 30) and has projections 69a, 69b, and 69d that are received in holes 66a, 66b, and 66d, respectively, and secured therein (such as by mechanical deformation thereof) to couple blades 30 to head 22.

Page 7, Paragraph 2, beginning at Line 12 through Line 16.

Referring to Figs. 3 and 5, the third set of slots 70a-c adjacent [back] front segment 46b. As best seen in Fig. 5, slots 70a and 70c are disposed on either side of central slot 70b. Central slot 70b is aligned with member 58b of lower support member 50b positioned at the bottom face of base 44. Slots 70a-c are provided between base 44 and guard bar 45 and serve as water rinsing/cleaning areas.

Page 11, Paragraph 1, beginning at Line 3 through Line 26.

In the embodiment of Figs. 8 and 9, connection members 52a and 52b, particularly members 60 and cutouts 62 thereof, and posts 80a and 80b and pins 84a and 84b are configured and dimensioned so that head 22 can move about and along multiple axes. Thus, head 22 is able to pivot forward and backward (a pitching movement) about pins 84a and 84b and about pivot axis P through pins 84a and 84b (parallel to axis T) with respect to razor handle 24, as illustrated by arrow A, as well as in directions toward and away from handle 24 (and thus neck piece 34 or bridge portion 78), as illustrated by arrows B. The movement in

the direction of arrows B occurs when forces F are applied to head 22. Specifically, when equal forces are applied to sides I and II of head 22, head 22 is pushed towards handle 24 and leaf-spring arms 82a and 82b both are compressed equally so that transverse axis T of head 22 remains perpendicular to longitudinal axes L and L_N even when out of the rest position, resulting in a cushioning motion. Additionally, sides I and II of head 22 may move along directions B independent of each other to effect a rolling motion of head 22. Thus, the relationship between transverse axis T and longitudinal axis L_N of neck piece 34 changes from perpendicular to oblique in a rolling movement of head 22 about the axis L_{TH} . This movement is allowed by the configuration and dimensions of cutouts 62, holes [66d] 66c (as shown in Fig. 5), and pins 84a therein. In addition, the provision of a biasing element enhances the cushioning and rolling motions. The biasing element (e.g., leaf springs 82a and 82b of the embodiment of Fig. 8) biases head 22 back into the rest position after any of the above-described movements of the head by biasing head 22 into a rest position with respect to handle 24. However, the configuration and dimensions of projection 48, and arms 82a and 82b, and cutouts 62 permit movement of head 22 towards handle 24 against the biasing element to effect cushioning or rolling motions of head 22.

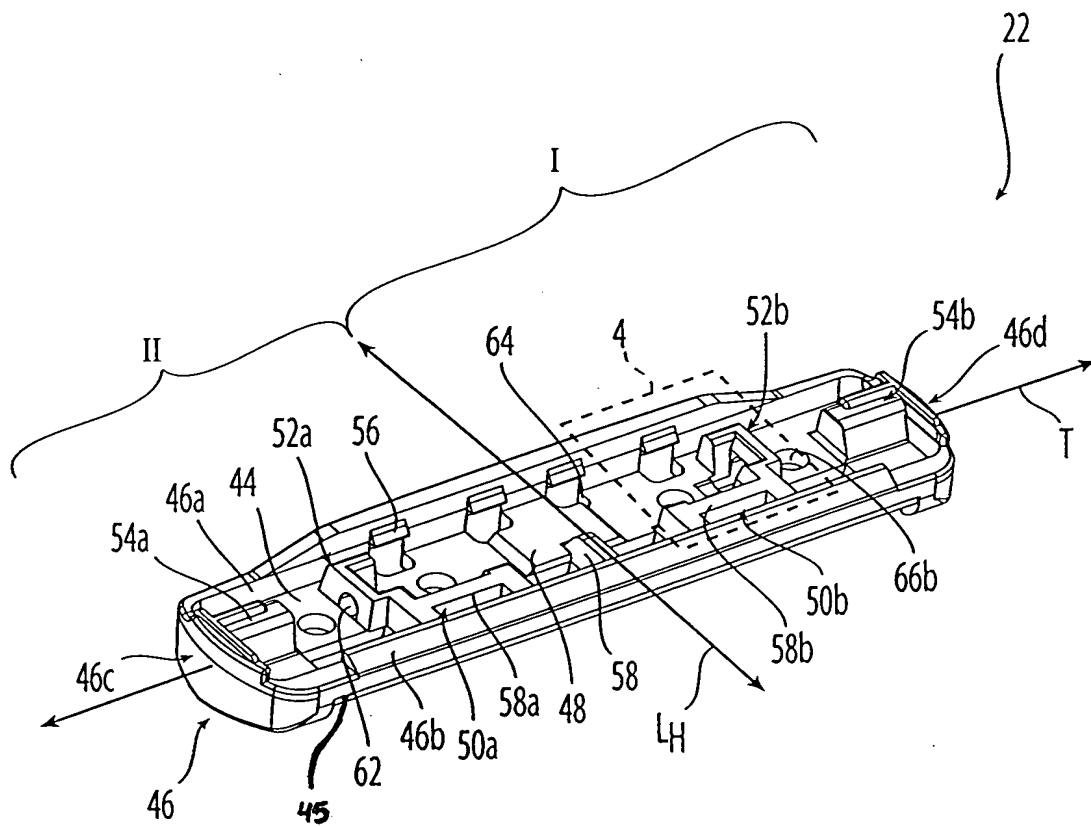


Fig. 3

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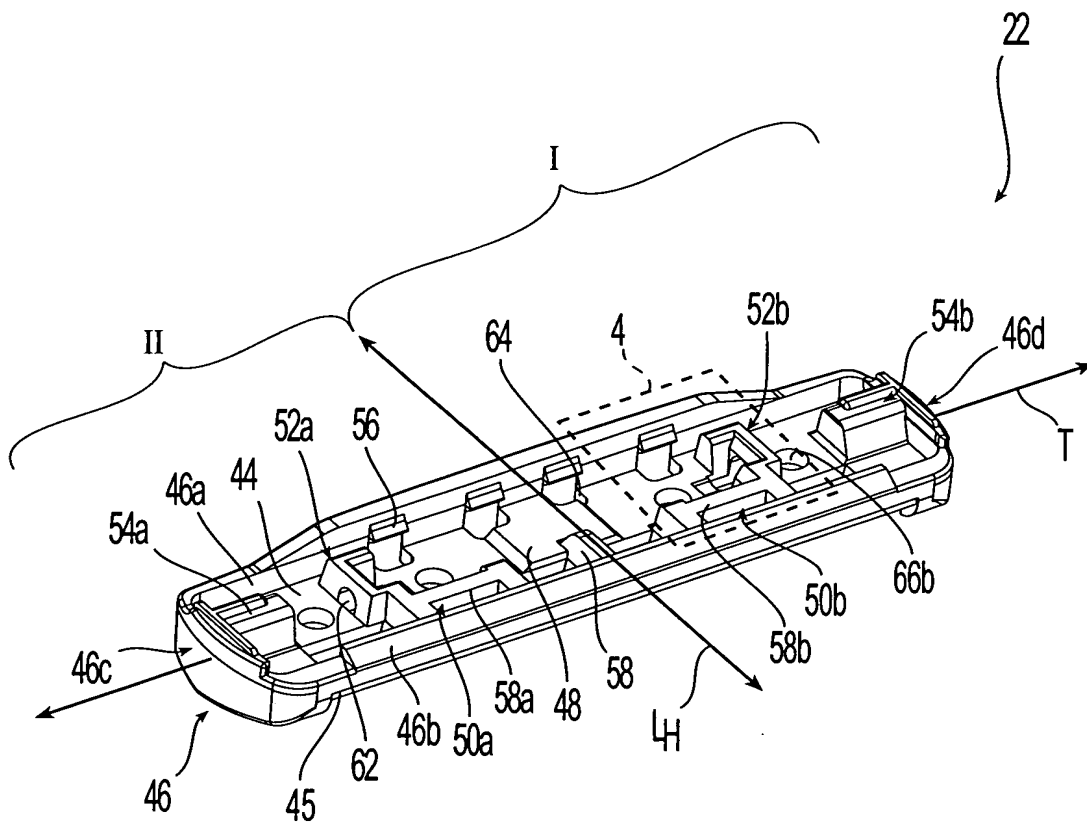


Fig. 3

APPENDIX C: MARKED-UP VERSION

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Amended) A razor, comprising:
 - a handle having a longitudinal axis;
 - a shaving head carrying at least one blade with at least one cutting edge and defining a transverse axis parallel to said at least one cutting edge;
 - a connector assembly movably coupling said handle to said shaving head; and
 - a biasing element spaced from said connector assembly and disposed between said shaving head and said handle, said biasing element biasing said shaving head into a rest position;wherein said connector assembly permits said shaving head to exhibit a first movement toward and away from said handle into and out of [the] said rest position.
2. (Amended) A razor as in claim 1, wherein said connector assembly further permits a pivoting second movement forward and backward about a pivot axis parallel to said transverse axis into and out of [the] said rest position.
3. (Amended) A razor as in claim 2, wherein said biasing element biases said head into [the] said rest position against said first movement and said second movement.
11. (Amended) A razor as in claim 1, wherein during the first movement, when said shaving head is moved out of [the] said rest position, said transverse axis is oblique to said longitudinal axis.
12. (Amended) A razor as in claim 1, wherein during the first movement, when said shaving head is out of [the] said rest position, said transverse axis is perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

14. (Amended) A razor, comprising:
a handle having a first end, a spaced second end, and a longitudinal axis extending between said first and second ends;
a shaving head carrying at least one blade with at least one cutting edge and defining a transverse axis parallel to said at least one cutting edge;
a connector assembly comprising a head-engaging element and a handle-engaging element movably coupling said handle to said shaving head; and
a biasing element biasing said shaving head into a rest position, said biasing element and said head-engaging element being disposed only at said first end of said handle and formed as a single piece[.];
wherein said connector assembly permits said shaving head to exhibit a first movement toward and away from said handle.

21. (Amended) A razor as in claim 20, wherein said shaving head further includes a projection extending therefrom, and said cam surface contacts said projection to bias said shaving head into [the] said rest position.